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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

10-28-1927

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 43)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27:8

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. IX, No. 43.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

Sister Anna Block Dies in Chicago

Death of Active Member of Dress-
makers' Union a Loss to Local

Mrs. Anna Block, one of the best known active workers in the I. L. G. W. U. organization in Chicago, member of Local 100, Chicago Dress-makers' Union, died this week, after a short illness.

Mrs. Block, who leaves a husband, also a member of the Chicago organization, was only a little over 30 years old at the time of her death. A loyal and intelligent member of the International, she has devoted a great deal of her spare time to the work of the union, and has often fought its battles on the picket line with rare courage and devotion. In the last strike of the Chicago dressmakers, Mrs. Block, together with a number of other women and men, was sentenced to jail for alleged violation of a brutal injunction, and spent thirty days in Cook County Jail.

Mrs. Block represented in 1925 the International Union as delegate at the national convention of the Women's Trade Union League at Kansas City, Mo. In the recent campaign to free the Chicago organization from the domination of the Communist clique, Mrs. Block did her best, despite precarious health, to rally the workers to the defense of their Union.

Kirshbaum Shop Abandons Chicago 'Left' Scab Outfit

Last Chicago Factory Where Communists aHd Influence Becomes.
Strict International Shop—"Strike" Declared by Commissars
a Fiasco—Employers Realize Disrupters Have No Standing
in Trade.

A sober analysis of the situation in Chicago leads one to conclude that the International Joint Board of that city has complete control in the trade. The efforts of the small group, which for a time had planned to organize an effective scab agency in the local market, are fast petering out.

One of the last nails in the Communist coffin was driven in by the Joint Board last week when it wrested control of the shop of B. Kirshbaum, a big cloak factory and the last stronghold of the "lefts," from the Communists and settled the controversy as to recognition of the union by this employer. The workers, in that instance were put to a final test and they passed that test splendidly.

The clash came over the refusal of a tailor employed in that shop to pay dues to the Joint Board. The office informed that worker that, whether a "left" or a right, as long as he is employed in the Kirshbaum shop, he must pay his dues to the union. He refused to comply with the order of the Joint Board even after he had received a registered letter to that effect. The Joint Board, thereupon, notified the firm that under its contract it is obliged to employ only union members. The firm discharged the tailor.

The Communist outfit in Chicago tried to persuade the employer to re-engage their "comrade," but without success. The firm replied to all their overtures that it is bound by a con-

Dues Campaign Meets Warm, Wide Resp

Members Show Eagerness to Register Confidence in U.
tion—Drive Will Continue Next Week—Every Worker
Union Shops to Become a Member in Good Standing—Vice-
President Dubinsky in Charge of Dues Control Campaign

The second meeting of business agents and managers, last Friday afternoon, October 21, in the Council Room of the I. L. G. W. U. Building, heard encouraging reports on the progress of the drive undertaken by the New York Joint Board to make every man and woman employed in the union cloak and dress shops a good standing member on the books of the organization.

This drive, which is only ten days old, and is conducted by vice-president David Dubinsky, is showing excellent results. In a summary of all the statements made by the business agents, Bro. Dubinsky stated clearly that this campaign will not be brought to an end until all the union shops in both industries are brought under strict control and that no laxity with regard to dues and other obligations to the organization will be tolerated. "Our union," vice-president Dubinsky said, "is a joint undertaking of all its members. It is a huge partnership,

with all partners equal in their rights and duties. In a partnership nobody expects to be spared of obligation, nobody anticipates to be let off easy, while the other partners work and pay. Well, the cloakmakers and dressmakers' unions don't want any 'slackers' as partners. Men and women who are on the union's roll, must and should be made to pay dues regularly, without alibis and excuses. That's all there is to it, and we intend to carry through this plan with big results."

The drive is covering the entire trade, and each business agent is assigned to a district. Shops are visited, the lists of the workers are examined by the visiting agent and the shop chairmen, and workers found in arrears are urged to pay up at once.

(Continued on Page 2)

Joint Board Pledges Help in Final Drive For Panken's Reelection

Joins Active Trade Union Group to Canvass for Labor Judge

General Manager Julius Hochman made a warm appeal at the close of last Friday night's meeting of the New York Joint Board to all delegates to help in the final stage of the campaign waged by all the Socialist and trade union elements in New York City to re-elect Justice Jacob Panken.

Manager Hochman paid a glowing tribute to Justice Panken's career and to his standing services to the Socialist and trade union movements. The only Socialist judge in the United States, Panken has rolled up a splendid record both as jurist and as exponent of working class philosophy and ideals. He came up from the ranks of the labor movement, and has remained true and faithful to it all his active life. For many years associated with the needle trades unions, he has helped to build several of them, including some of our own organizations.

Hochman's appeal was warmly received by the Joint Board delegates, and many of them pledged immediately to join the active trade union committee which is working under the

direction of Brother Sol Metz, to assure the re-election of Judge Panken. Vice-president Hochman volunteered to give up all his spare hours until election day to address Panken trade union meetings.

There is little doubt that Panken could be re-elected despite Tammany opposition in such a working class district as the Second Municipal District of New York, and it is now up to the workers who reside in it to do their duty.

Hall'een Dance This Sat'y Night

The Halloween festival and dance of the Recreational Circle of the Women's Council of the Dressmakers' Union will be held this coming Saturday, October 29, at the I. L. G. W. U. Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street.

This festival was arranged by a committee of the Council, including members of Locals 22 and 89, in answer to a request for a friendly social gathering of dressmakers. The committee in charge of arrangements consists of Marie Bonano, Mildred Neglia, Mamie Ippolito, Grace DeLouise, Ida Rubin, Celia Schwanenfeldt and Minnie Rubinstein.

A lively orchestra will furnish the dance music, refreshments will be served, and altogether it is expected that the festival will be a gay and enjoyable gathering. Tickets can be obtained from Marie Bonano, at the offices of Local 22, at the Local 89, and at the door on the evening of the dance. Members of other locals are cordially invited.

Debs Radio Station Formally Opened In I.L.G.W.U. Building

To Voice Labor's Demands, Hopes and Ideals

A triumph for the labor forces of the East, touched by one sorrow, that Eugene V. Debs was not present in the flesh, marked the opening Thursday evening, October 20, of the Debs Memorial Radio Fund Station WEVD, established as a living memorial to the late leader.

Throngs of union men and women, others prominent in the progressive movement of the country, attended the opening of the studio donated to

the Station by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. They admired the simple, but lovely furnishings of the studio, the noble marble bust of Debs made by Moses Dykster, the noted sculptor, the studio and reception room. For the occasion, and for what is expected to be a permanent fixture, an amplifier was placed in the garment workers' auditorium where several hundred enthusiastic

(Continued on Page 2)

New York
City Library
42nd St. & 5th Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Local 91 Moves To New Office

First Floor—Rooms for Execu-
tive and Shop Meetings

The Children's Dress, House Dress, and Bathrobe Makers' Union, Local 91, moved this week from the old office it occupied for several years, at the People's House, 7 East 15th Street, to the first floor of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street.

The new office of Local 91 is one of the finest headquarters of our smaller locals in New York City. The floor it now occupies was divided into four parts—one for a finance and dues office, another as an executive office for the local's manager, Brother Harry Greenberg, a third large section for executive board and shop meetings, and a fourth section—for a spacious waiting room where shop meetings could also be held.

Vice-president Greenberg has extended an invitation to all members of Local 91 to come inspect the new offices, and, simultaneously, to pay a visit to the I. L. G. W. U. building, which, many of the local's younger members, no doubt, never visited before.

Kirshbaum Shop Abandons Chicago 'Left' Scab Outfit

(Continued from Page 1)
"strike" had paid in dues to the scab outfit on the assumption that they amounted to something in the trade, return after the fiasco to demand that the money be returned to them. They further discovered that the commissars had given them no regular

union stamps for the money they paid in, but merely rubber-stamped the books for them. Of course, these disillusioned workers got no money back from the Communist agents; these gentry are not in the habit of returning pennies they succeed in separating from a worker's purse.

Dues Campaign Meets Warm Response

(Continued from Page 1)

And the results are encouraging all along the line. Without exception the men and the women who, for one reason or another, or for no reason at all, had failed to meet their obligations in the past are falling in line. Moreover, they promise that no such dues control, if they can help it, will be needed in the future. The nightmare of Communist demoralization, which has affected the morale in the shops, is fast passing and the

trade union spirit, the spirit of equal rights and equal responsibility, is taking its place.

Vice-president Julius Hochmayer, the general manager of the Joint Board, reported in the same vein on the dues campaign at its last meeting on Friday night. Despite the hardship of the present slow season, the workers are responding in a fine way to the appeal of their union for prompt payment of dues. In some shops the workers are making an effort to pay up their dues in advance, he added.

Debs Radion Opened In I.L.G.W. Bld'g

(Continued from Page 1)

men and women listened in on the opening.

W. E. Henley's "Invictus," sung by James E. Phillips, basso, formally launched WEVD on the air. The poem was a special favorite of Debs and the last two lines, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul," Debs scribbled on his deathbed.

The station, which will be exclusively devoted to helping the aspirations and struggles of labor, will be a crusading vehicle. The first week of its opening, for example, the campaign of the Bookkeepers', Stenogra-

phers' and Accountants' Union to organize the office girls of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, some of them earning as little as \$12 a week, went on the air over WEVD.

The station opened with a short speech by G. August Gerber, secretary of the Debs Radio Fund. The Rev. Dr. John Haynes Holmes made the dedicatory address, extolling the life and work of Debs and declaring the station to be a fitting memorial to his name. Others who spoke included Norman Thomas, chairman of the Fund; Morris Hillquit, Arthur Garfield Hays and Theodore Debs, who came from Terre Haute, Ind., to accept the station in the name of the Debs' family.

Unity Reunion Dance Will Be Held on December 10, Manhattan Opera House

Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players Will Supply Music

Everyone is talking about the Unity House Reunion Dance scheduled to take place on Saturday evening, December 10, in the ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House, 34th Street near 8th Avenue.

Thousands are planning to attend this affair. The attractions are varied—the beauty of the hall, the famous Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players; and, above all, a desire to meet those with whom they spent a jolly vacation at Unity House, the friends they danced with, sang with, laughed with, hiked with. Those of our members who were unable to go to Unity this year are also eager to attend the reunion, as they, too, expect to see many old friends, and

meet new ones.

It is realized, of course, that the capacity of even the Manhattan Opera House ballroom is too limited to take in all who might wish to go to this affair. The committee, unfortunately, could not find a larger hall as attractive as the Manhattan ballroom.

Since the object of this affair is to offer guests of Unity House an opportunity to meet again in the winter, the admission price, including wardrobe will be only \$1.00. Tickets may be obtained at the Educational Department of the International, 3 West 16th Street, Chelsea 2148.

Get your tickets early. Remember to reserve Saturday, December 10, for the Unity Reunion Dance.

Wanted: More Courage

By NORMAN THOMAS

This particular form of "educational" corruption of the public mind by the power of money is only one and perhaps not the most sinister sign of the times in a country where almost everybody is fearfully obsessed with the necessity of getting more money or hanging on to what he has. A modern Diogenes in America might possibly need a lantern to find an honest man. He would need an electric searchlight to find a courageous man. Let some recent illustrations prove our point.

In Cheswick, a little mining town near Pittsburgh, state troopers ruthlessly and brutally broke up a perfectly peaceful Sacco and Vanzetti protest meeting on private property, making wholesale arrests. A considerable time after the meeting had been dispersed a trooper was shot by a man whom he was bullying, apparently without cause. The man escaped. Those previously arrested obviously had nothing to do with the shooting. There is in Pittsburgh considerable sympathy for them among newspaper reporters who first covered the story and among decent citizens generally. Yet very few of these decent citizens have thus far dared to support a defense committee for these poor miners. As some of them frankly say they are caught in a skin the ends of which lead to the steel trust and the Mellon political and financial machine.

In Boston there is an almost hysterical desire on the part of respectable citizens to forget the Sacco-Vanzetti case. "Good" people don't dare tell themselves think about it for fear their consciences will trouble them. Nevertheless privately many lawyers and newspaper men know that wrong was done but held their peace. There is not a more contemptible thing in recent journalism than the conduct of the Boston Herald which having won the Pulitzer editorial prize for stating the case for a new trial, not only supported the Governor's decision editorially but closed its columns to the news and now urges everybody to forget the case. This happened under direct financial pressure. The elderly editor, who wrote the winning editorial, prefers his comfortable job and easily earned salary to his own professional or personal self respect.

The tragedy of this attitude is that it is well-nigh universal in America. It is no longer fashionable even in some labor circles to have causes which are worth even a little sacri-

fice. And for what little mess of pottage we sell our souls!

The more therefore does honor belong to folks like William Thompson and Mary Donovan and a few others who have proved that courage is not dead even in Boston. Without Diogenes' searchlight we have found some courageous souls. It is for us to cherish them as portents of a better day. It is for us to see that such judicial trials that are still pending as an evil aftermath of the Sacco-Vanzetti tragedy shall be properly and victoriously defended.

A Progressive Program

It is on the whole encouraging to see signs of a revival of progressivism in Congress. With most of Senator Nye's program for a progressive coalition we can pretty well agree. Nevertheless neither in philosophy nor tactics is this progressivism adequate to our political needs. The progressive program is based not on any fundamental theory that we can discover but on a sort of combination of grievances. It wants public development of power at Muscle Shoals but has no program for the immensely important power issue as a whole. It has no program on coal at all. It wants to put the farmers in the class of tariff beneficiaries which may be necessary as things now are but which is no solution for the farm problem. It shows no signs of having done hard thinking on the national or international importance of the tariff problem generally. Individual progressives have introduced good measures directed against imperialism but there is scarcely an adequate progressive program against imperialism. Individual progressives, or some of them, still talk in the futile language of nineteenth century trust busting. Finally, they talk about changes in the Federal Reserve Law without giving us any clear indication of knowing what they want to how to get it. Social control of banking and credit is one of the most important problems before us. Tinkering with the present banking machinery in the interests of small banks against large ones, or country against the city, or another wave of cheap money agitation will get us precisely nowhere. Maybe the progressives plan nothing of that sort but they ought to outline their position clearly.

Outworn Tactics

Rail Manly of the Peoples' Legislative Service says that progressives can (Continued on Page 7)

Manumit School Starts New Season

The Manumit Associates held their fourth annual conference on Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18, at Manumit School, near Pawling, Dutchess County, New York. The Associates is a group of educators, labor men and women, and others, participating in movements for social reconstruction, organized to maintain and direct the Manumit School. The school is an experimental school for the children of trade unionists and others who desire for their children a free environment and opportunity to practice in their daily lives the principles of democracy.

The conference consisted of an informal reception on Saturday afternoon by the staff of the school to the directors and guests, and three formal sessions, which were devoted to discussing Manumit's place in the new education movement, and its potential contribution as an experimental school in the fields of Health,

Hygiene, Emotional Adjustment, Teaching Technique, and Curriculum Revision.

Among those who participated in the discussion were A. J. Muste, chairman of the faculty of Brookwood Labor College, who is also chairman of the Manumit Board of Directors; Mrs. Helen Fincke, Manumit founder, Dr. Henry R. Linville of the Teachers' Union, formerly director of the school; Mr. Abraham Lefkowitz of the American Federation of Teachers, Mrs. J. M. Budish of the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union, Miss Laura Garrett of Housatonic Camp, Miss Fannia Cohn of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Miss Anna Gifford and Mr. H. R. Taylor, members of the staff of Manumit for 1927-28, and Miss Nellie M. Seeds, director of the school, who gave a brief account of the New Education Conference at Locarno this summer.



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Consumers' Cooperatives Gaining Steadily in Power

By J. M.

CONSUMERS' cooperative societies in the United States, having a membership in excess of 700,000 and doing an annual business greater than \$300,000,000, have been made a subject of intensive study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, according to a report recently announced. While the societies, as it is reported in the review, have come through a period of hard times, they seem to have rallied and are now on the upward trend.

The full text of the review is as follows:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics made a statistical study of the cooperative movement in the United States in 1926. That study covered only consumers' societies and the collective buying activities of the farmers' marketing organizations. In 1925 another, but more inclusive, survey was made, covering not only consumers' societies proper but also credit, housing, and workers' productive societies. Except where otherwise noted, the data below are taken from the report of that study.

The cooperative movement in this country is little developed as compared with European countries. Nevertheless, on the basis of the societies which have furnished reports to the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 1925, the total cooperative membership may be placed at over 700,000 and the cooperative business for 1925 at considerably in excess of \$300,000,000. It may safely be said that the cooperative movement in the United States (not including agricultural organizations) reaches several million people.

Cooperative Societies Given Impetus by War

During the early part of this century a slight revival of interest in consumers' cooperation took place. This gradually increased in strength, reaching its crest during the war years of high prices, when nearly two-fifths of the consumers' societies were formed. The year 1920 marked a turning point in the tide of consumers' cooperation; since 1921 few new societies have been formed and the societies in existence have had a hard struggle. The year 1920 also marks the beginning of a rapid development of the cooperative credit movement. Since that year, with the passage of enabling legislation in State after State, the idea of cooperative credit has spread widely and rapidly.

The greatest development of the consumers' movement has taken place in the Middle West, while the great majority of credit societies are at present on the Atlantic coast. As, however, it has been only within the past few years that cooperative credit societies have had legal status in other parts of the country, the indications are that the next few years will see a change in the geographical distribution of the credit union movement. The housing societies are almost entirely confined to New York City.

In the majority of cases the cooper-

ation "leaven" among the population is too small to be of any particular influence on the community as a whole. A small proportion of the associations, on the other hand, are in places where the cooperative membership includes a very large per cent of the people, and in these cases the cooperative society can be a real influence in insuring fair wages, conditions, and hours of labor, in training the members both in business principles and in the give and take of practical democracy, and in raising the general cultural level in the locality.

Consumers' Societies Holding Their Own

The consumers' societies have come through a period of hard times, but seem now to have rallied and to be on the upward trend. They are more than holding their own in point of membership, "real sales," capital, and reserves. They have entered many lines of business and are making good.

Data are at hand from 479 consumers' societies, distributed according to type, as follows:

Retail store societies dealing in—		No.	Per cent.
General merchandise	324	67.6	
Groceries	49	10.2	
Groceries and meats	38	7.9	
Students' supplies	11	2.3	
Other commodities	9	1.9	
Total	431	90.0	
<hr/>			
Wholesale societies	3	.6	
Gasoline filling stations	10	2.1	
Bakeries	9	1.9	
Laundries	2	.4	
Boarding houses	12	2.5	
Restaurants	5	1.0	
Water-supply societies	2	.4	
Miscellaneous societies	5	1.0	
Grand total	479	100.0	

The societies listed above dealing in "other commodities" include two organizations handling coal only, one art supplies, one dry goods and furniture, one men's clothing, and four miscellaneous articles. The "miscellaneous" societies include one milk-distributing society, one printing office, and one undertaking establishment.

The term "general merchandise" covers a variety of goods, such as groceries, meats, light hardware, shoes, various articles of clothing, etc. The farmers' societies usually handle also farm supplies, feed, lumber, and even farm machinery, and in Illinois the general cooperative store is likely to carry also members' supplies and equipment. Several of the general store societies of Michigan and Wisconsin also deal in forest products.

Considerable versatility in branching out into new lines is shown by the societies studied. Nine societies, in addition to their regular business, also handle coal; one of these sells ice as well, and another also operates a milk route. One store society also deals in gasoline, another in automobile tires, another in oil and tires, and

two others in gasoline and oil. One of the gasoline filling stations also carries tires and accessories. A milk station as well as a grocery and meat business is operated by one organization, three others run bakeries in connection with the store, and still another has both a milk station and bakery. One of the Finnish societies supplements its store business with a bakery and restaurant, and another with a milk station, coal yard, restaurant and bakery. An Italian general store society also has a poolroom and assembly hall for its members. A northern society which has a general store also does a public dock and ship chandlery business, and one of the older students' societies, in addition to the text-books, etc., can supply its members with clothing, tailor service, kitchen utensils and paints. But perhaps the most varied activities are found in a New York society which has four cafeterias, a bakery, food shop, lending library and credit union; the policy of this society is to add to the services offered rather than to "spread thin" a single service over one new group of members after another.

Cooperative Gasoline and Oil Stations Are New

Five of the societies are buying clubs which have no store but simply pool the orders of their members.

"The Mikado"

We long ago had the conviction that a permanent Gilbert and Sullivan Company in New York would have a devoted patronage even to the point of fanaticism. When we saw "The Mikado" the other night at the Royale, under the wise direction of Winthrop Ames who had previously brought huge delight to Gilbert-maniacs with his productions of "Iolanthe" and "The Pirates of Penzance," this conviction mounted to a complete certainty.

One was dismayed, of course, that William Williams, as Nanki-Poo, and Lois Bennett, as Yum-Yum, had no voices to speak of, thus rendering some of the loveliest lyrics into prose, but the ensemble singing, a gorgeous Poo-Bah in the person of William Gordon, a diverting Mikado in John Barclay and a true Gilbertian Katisha in Vera Ross, as well as the entrancing sets by Raymond Sovey and the dances by Michio Ito calculated to make the heart leap with delight, the eye to swoon and the ear to grow dizzy with what will always be a great enchantment of the theatre.

Those of us old enough to recall Gilbertian actors of the old school, Jefferson D'Angelis, Frank Moulton, De Wolf Hopper and others, may find some of the caricature missing in the current production, but the movement is more sinuous, the action more artificial and less slapstick, the settings and costuming more artistic and the ensemble smoother in most respects. If the Nanki-Poo and the Yum-Yum and some of the lesser personages appear to be graduated from the mere musical shows, nevertheless Gordon as Poo-Bah, Barclay as the Mikado, Fred Wright as Ko-Ko, though he has no voice, and Miss Ross as Katisha are in the best Gilbert and Sullivan tradition. And we call especial attention, though it is not necessary, to the Mikado's sword-bearer, Little Paula Langlen, and his umbrella-bearer, George Lehman.

Having devoted ourselves thus to the record, it is interesting to observe that the years have not seared the fresh quality of this social satire, barbed with jesting. It is superfluous to make changes in the text, as they do in the present case, and substitute "prohibitionist" for "lady novelist," who was the object of Gilbertian

The cooperative gasoline and oil stations are a very recent development in the cooperative movement.

The cooperative boarding houses represent an interesting phase of the cooperative idea. These are mainly Scandinavian and Finnish societies composed of unmarried men who band together to supply themselves with board and lodging without profit. Many of these organizations also accommodate transients. In some cases the building is owned by the society. Many of these societies are operated at cost, each man paying in advance the amount estimated as needed to cover the week's expenses. The boarding houses reporting have housing accommodations for 312 roomers and serve meals to an average of 1,513 persons per day. The number of persons served varies considerably from season to season. One northern society reports that in the summer when the ore docks in the locality are active the number of boarders runs up to as high as 80, but in the winter the number may fall as low as ten.

The four restaurants which reported on the point average 4,490 meals per day.

A total of 531 establishments is operated by 456 societies, and 447 of these societies give employment to 3,469 full-time and 49 part-time workers.

scorn in 1885. It still remains very plain that no fraud and no fake among the aristocrats, the military caste and the diplomats escaped Gilbert's Jovian scorn; we still have the frauds with us and they do not come to witness such things as "The Mikado."

We recommend heartily to those of our readers who still have the love of life in them to rush to the Royale Theatre and buy their tickets to this grand show.

Richard Rohman

THEATRE GUILD PLAYS AT REDUCED PRICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

We are glad of the response of our members to the Theatre Guild's offer whereby they can see the six plays to be produced this season for \$6.00, just \$1.00 for each play, instead of paying \$2.20 for the same seat at the regular rate.

The plays to be presented will be chosen from the following:

Porgy, by Dorothy and Dubose Heyward.
The Doctor's Dilemma, by Shaw.
A Month in the Country, by Turgenev.

Subscription blanks can be obtained from our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

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JUSTICE

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MORRIS SIGMAN, President A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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EDITORIALS

A GALLERY OF "DEAD SOULS"

Two weeks ago we told our members of the appearance of a puny, illiterate leaflet, distributed in the cloak and dress district by the regular squad of "Communist Youth" boys and girls, in which President Sigman and his associate leaders of the International Union are made the target of a renewed attack by a clumsily concealed group of Communists, near-Communists, and a few former disgruntled jobholders masquerading as a "cloak and dress makers' committee of 50."

We had promised ourselves, and our readers, not to refer to this "literature" again. We know how disgusted our workers are with such sewer products. They certainly have had enough of it in the past two or three years, enough of the filth, lying, chicanery and deceit introduced into our movement by the Communist demagogues, and they are entitled to a rest.

There is, however, an angle to this scurrilous effusion which we, perhaps, failed to emphasize in our earlier comment, and which may be of some interest to our readers. With the appearance of the second "number" of this circular, it is appropriate to lift the curtain above this latest punch-and-judy act and to introduce our readers to some of the actors that are manipulating it.

Who are then these new-fangled "saviors" of the cloak and dress makers?

Of course, every intelligent member of our Union knows well enough that there is no such thing as a "committee of 50 cloak dress makers". There had been several Communist concoctions in the past year or so which paraded anonymously in our enemy press as mysterious "committees of fifty"—they have a weakness for this number—speaking in the name of non-existent "masses" for "peace" with the Moscow agents and for compromise with the wreckers of our organization. These mischief-makers, however, deceived nobody as to their strength and influence among the cloakmakers and dressmakers. Anyone who came in contact with them, who heard their talks and whisperings, who read their circulars knew well in whose interests these gentry were working. In their vocabulary "peace" meant submission to Communist rule, and our members had tasted enough of that rule not to crave for a repetition of it in any shape or manner. So they slammed the door in the face of these "peacemakers".

The finale of this drive to sidetrack our workers on the so-called issue of "peace" with the Communists came with the fiasco of their Madison Square Garden meeting in August. Shortly after that monumental failure, Bill Foster, the head and tail of the Communist anti-trade union propaganda in this country, called the faithful together in New York City and informed them that they must conform to a new tactic adopted by the sanhedrin of the "Workers' Party". The Party lost the fight against the International; the American Federation of Labor and its forces have gained the day; yet not all would be lost should the "comrades" succeed in knocking Sigman and some of his closest co-leaders out of power and thus revenge themselves on their most implacable enemy. They must mobilize their forces now and unite with every opponent, past, present and future, of Sigman's, to besmirch, detract and belittle him, and agitate for a "new leader" who would "save the Union from Sigman".

No, they could not expect to elect a Communist or a near-Communist as president of the International at the next convention. It is a bitter pill for the flock to swallow, but such are party orders. They must unite now even with the fellows they had themselves attacked and maligned only not so long ago as "knife heroes" and "betrayers of the working class" to beat Sigman. Anything to get out of the terrible mess in which the party finds itself now, anything to show to the world—and especially to the holy fathers in the Kremlin—that the party had scored some point, that it had beaten Sigman if it couldn't capture the International for the sacred Communist cause!

That's how the latest chapter of this campaign of personal abuse against President Sigman got started.

Who are the Communist allies in this drive to oust Sigman as president of the International and to put in his place a "new leader", for whom the poor cloakmakers and dressmakers are waiting with feverish eagerness?

A strange gallery of portraits, indeed. Communists of course, are not particular with whom they associate as long as it serves their purpose. Communists will welcome a gangster, an employer, or a gambler as a bedfellow if they can exploit him for the "cause". One, however, might have thought that in our case, in the case of the cloak and dressmakers they would be a little more careful. Nothing of the kind. Whom do we find among the inspirers of this anti-Sigman campaign, who are paying for its

leaflets, writing its venomous literature, and helping to scatter it among the workers?

A former vice-president of the International, whom the members of our Union only not so long invited to abdicate, today a personal enemy of President Sigman, and a successful fur salesman; an old-time general officer of the Union, who for the last thirteen years has been a prosperous employer of labor, and who has not failed to offer our employers encouragement in every cloak and dress strike we have had since he was ousted from office, by open attacks in the press and by misrepresenting the cause of our workers; a millionaire builder whose purse is always open for the Communist cause if it can only harm and weaken a trade union that is not "radical" enough to suit his bourgeois taste; two or three former union officials whose usefulness in the union had come to an end some years ago, and who are now just gambling for a "comeback" on the prospect of a change of leadership in the International.

In addition to these "idealists", there is, of course, the old handful of sorry "peacemakers", who, after their own fiasco, are ready to trail after any outfit that is offering a chance for some new mischief. All these fellows ask for is any little bandwagon to jump on, any chance to get rid of the poison that is tormenting them.

And what is this new camarilla, this combination of employers, building contractors, and salesmen, offering the cloakmakers and dressmakers, what is their so-called platform? Are they offering our workers a program of industrial changes and reforms, are they responding to the burning ills that are plaguing our men and women in the shops?

Not a thing, of course. What has this aggregation of "dead souls" to do with the needs and woes of our workers, what have they in common with the labor movement, what, to be sure, holds this bunch together save a common enmity for President Sigman which the Communist politicians are deftly manipulating for their own ulterior motives? All this motley crowd, this flotsam and jetsam knows is that "Sigman is the cause of all ills" in this world, and that Sigman must make room for a new Messiah of their own choosing. To achieve such a salvation, they would have the cloakmakers and dressmakers participate in a "referendum" that would result in the removal of the present leaders of the International.

What an old trick, what stupid, worn-out subterfuge! We recall that right after the International had reorganized last December the defunct locals that were under the Communist thumb, the commissars raised a yell for "elections". They, of a sudden, evinced an awful fondness for democracy after they had mocked it and laughed at it for years. When they realized that the rank and file of the membership of the union had deposed them from leadership after their treasonable management of the lost cloak strike, they overnight became advocates of free expression of opinion and even of tolerance. It is the old story of the devil who manifested a desire to enroll as an angel when he realized that he was desperately ill.

Since last December a good deal of water has passed under the bridge, but the remnant of the old Communist clique apparently has learned nothing even if it did forget a thing or two. But the fakers who are shunned and despised by every honest and loyal element in the Union will not succeed in pulling a skein of wool over the eyes of our workers by this attempt to sell them a "referendum" gold brick. This dastardly attack on Morris Sigman, who courageously and manfully fought back the poison waves of Communism and trade-union disruption with signal success in the past three years as head of the International Union, this "referendum" to be conducted under the auspices of fur salesmen, cloth-sponge employers, apartment-house builders and what not, will fail just as the despairing Communist shriek for "elections" had failed to attract the attention of our members when the commissars were forced to abdicate their posts in our organization last winter.

The new comedy has come entirely too late in the season. Our members will treat this circus intrigue of Sigman's enemies with the scorn and derision it deserves. Our members have far more important business on hand to give it more than a passing thought. They have their union to build up, their industry's ills and drawbacks to cure and eliminate. These are the things that count in their lives. These are the things they are determined to achieve.

WORDS WE SHALL NOT FORGET

Isidore Nagler, the delegate representing the I. L. G. W. U. at the convention of the American Federation in Los Angeles, finished reading the report sent by President Sigman to the Federation's convention. The ladies' garment workers of America were thanking their fellow workers in the trade union movement for the loyal aid given them in their fight to save their union from alien grasp and domination. Then President William Green rose to reply:

"A large percentage of the needle workers in New York are made up of foreign-speaking people, and the Communists thought that, because of their emotional and temperamental nature, it was a fertile soil in which to work, so they conducted their well-known Moscow dictatorship tactics, and they sought to rule or ruin that great organization. They introduced misery, suffering, violence and murder among these people.

"But I am happy to report that there were many women's garment workers in New York, hundreds and thousands of loyal trade unionists, and it is a great compliment to these workers that when they were the objects of attack they stood like a stone wall in defense of trade unionism. . . . They were put to the test, they were tried in the fiery furnace. Many of them were brutally beaten because they were loyal to us."

"Now I want to say, in behalf of the Executive Council, that

American Labor and The Law

By HERMAN FRANK, PH.D.

At the closing of the 47th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, in Los Angeles, on October 14, President Green declared that the sessions this year resulted in some of the most constructive achievements in the Federation's history.

According to the dispatch of the staff correspondent of The New York Times, Mr. William Green referred with particular emphasis to the reaffirmation of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and its 350,000 members with the Building Trades Department, which it left six years ago. He said that the return of the carpenters showed that the Building Trades Department, as well as the Federation, were bound by a greater degree of solidarity and unity than ever before.

The Case of the Building Trades

The building crafts form, next to the printing and needle trades, the best organized branch of American industry. The foremost union of the building trades, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, seems to have realized at an early date that the introduction of machinery and the breaking down of craft lines make the unskilled workers competitors of the skilled. If the skilled workers cannot prevent the introduction of machinery, they must find some other way to eliminate as far as possible the competition of the unskilled.

The best way would be to bring the unskilled workers into the union. When a trade union takes such a course of action it aims chiefly not to help the unskilled workers but to help the skilled workers principally. In the case of the building crafts, a special measure, in the nature of a practical compromise, was introduced—the so-called craft industrialism. It consisted in the formation, in 1904, of an alliance of all structural trades with a view to concerted union activity in the building industry. A few years later this alliance was transformed into the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

As a result of frequent jurisdictional disputes between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and the smaller structural unions, the Brotherhood has three times been expelled from the Building Trades Department. These controversies, caused mainly by the Brotherhood, the largest and most powerful of the building trade unions, resulted in grave damage to the Building Trades Department, which, in its turn, is the backbone of the American Federation of Labor.

A Wise and Timely Movement

The present return of the Brotherhood to the fold of the Building Trades Department is, no doubt, as useful as it is timely, though it came somehow as a surprise, at least to the outsider. Only a few months ago, Professor E. E. Cummins, of Wooster College, Ohio, a diligent student of the Brotherhood's history and philosophy, dwelling in the "International Labor Review" on the crisis in the Carpenters' Union, concluded that

the prospects for an early settlement of the controversy were not particularly bright.

Yet it is now a fact, and a gratifying fact, that harmony within the building crafts has been re-established.

As a matter of recorded history, the Carpenters' Union has always taken active interest in the promotion of those labor laws with which it has had direct concern. Clearly, the child labor laws do not belong to this category, but legal measures affecting the general status of trade unions, of strikes, and of the boycott do belong to this kind of labor legislation. Here the Brotherhood is vitally concerned, and has always been ready to lend vigorous support to any legislation which seeks to improve the status of organized labor.

So, for instance, the Brotherhood was exceedingly active in the campaign which finally resulted in the enactment of the labor provision of the Clayton Act of 1914, to wit: Labor should not be regarded as a commodity to which the rules and regulations aimed at preventing any kind of restriction of trade and of interstate commerce (anti-trust laws) may be applied.

The organizers of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners devoted much of their time to the fight in that memorable campaign, as has been recently declared by Frank Duffy, general secretary of the Carpenters' Union, in a letter to Professor Cummins. Additional organizers were sent out primarily to aid in the campaign, and its treasury was subject to heavy drains.

"Compare this," writes Professor Cummins in a recent article in the "Political Science Quarterly," "with the Brotherhood's policy in regard to the proposed child labor amendment. True, the officers and members have declared themselves in favor of it; but to give heavily in time and money is a different matter."

Yet, after all, the Brotherhood has come to be deeply disappointed in legislation as a means of attaining the union's ends. This disillusionment is a result of lost faith in the administration of the law. It has been learned by experience that even if, after a long and bitter fight, a favorable piece of legislation is finally enacted, the ends sought for have not been attained. Although the law as written on the statute books may appear favorable to labor, frequently an interpretation by the court renders it useless as far as labor is concerned.

The New Situation

This principle has nowadays become a burning actuality. The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Bedford Cut Stone Company vs. Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association case, handed down early in April of the current year, furnishes a new illustration of the pernicious and systematic use of injunctions in labor disputes.

If no further measures of a legislative nature are immediately taken, it must be regarded, on the basis of this decision, as settled law of the land that all strikes against the use of non-union material are unlawful,

and that, in most cases, the anti-trust legislation can be invoked against them. This, indeed, is very different from what organized labor has always believed to be the law; namely, that the right to strike is absolute and that workmen may quit work for any or no reason.

While there is really little that is new in the Bedford Cut Stone Company decision, the doctrines therein announced have never been accepted by labor, particularly by the vigorous Carpenters' Union, as being the law. Consequently, the precedent set up by the U. S. Supreme Court, and the veritable epidemic of all sorts of injunctions that followed the decision against the International of the Stone Cutters, have aroused widespread alarm and resentment in the labor world. The deliberations of the

convention at Los Angeles have amply echoed the bitter sentiments of the labor leaders.

The Clayton Act has not proved to be a boon to organized labor. In fact it has materially helped to widen the breach between the trade unions and the courts. As an inevitable result, the leaders of American labor have come to realize that the unfavorable legal position which workers occupy when engaged in industrial disputes can be abolished only through sweeping reforms such as the revision and re-writing of the Sherman Anti-Trust laws of the treacherous Clayton Act.

To be able to wage a new successful campaign in the legal field, in order to attain the ends which are so vital for the interests of trade unionism, the powers and prestige of the American Federation of Labor must be vastly strengthened. The revival of the full-fledged Building Trades Department is, for that matter, a most encouraging and significant token.

Mexican Labor In Two Conventions

THE eighth annual convention of the Mexican Regional Confederation of Labor, the CROM, and its affiliated organizations, held in Mexico City from August 29 to 26, was undoubtedly the most important in the history of the Mexican labor movement not only as evidence of their remarkable growth and strength but also of its political and economic consequence for the Mexican Republic.

To judge the growth of the CROM, one must consider its short history: that it was founded in 1918 with scarcely 8,000 members, that today almost 2,000,000 Mexican workers are affiliated in the Regional Federation of Labor, while under the Mexican Labor Party the political arm, with splendidly organized local units throughout the Republic, Labor has 40 representatives in the Lower House of the National Congress, 11 in the Senate and five of the twenty-eight state of the Mexican Republic have governors elected definitely by Labor. In short, Labor in Mexico City today has the strength of firm and disciplined organization, the importance of this being the more when it is remembered that the organized labor units are the only mass organizations in Mexico and that practically nothing can be done without their consent. Even the Federal Government considers this fact and as the President, when he came in person to greet the delegates assembled at the convention and to commend organized Labor for its great patriotic efforts to better the economic and social standards of the Mexican masses, stated, that his government is glad to count on the help of Mexican organized Labor and its able directors.

The convention registered about 3,000 credentials in the name of 2,207 local organizations. Questions such as the immigration of Mexican workers into the United States of North America, were discussed and brought out in clear relief the economic situation of the Mexican worker and peasant class, the consensus of the convention on this issue being that the great flow of workers from the country is practically entirely due to the fact that the economic situation at home is insufficient to satisfy the needs of the laboring masses. Many delegates were of the opinion that economic reasons being stronger than all government regulations, no amount of regulations and agreements on the part of both the governments of the United States and Mexico could deter these migrations of workers while the economic opportunities within Mexico itself are at so low a par, a situation. It was pointed out, which the delegates government is grappling with nobly and with continued success by fostering national industries and large scale

public improvements such as highway and irrigation projects.

Luis N. Morones, founder of the Mexican Labor movement and Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor in the present Mexican government, addressed the delegates summing up the mutual agreements which the American Federation of Labor and the CROM as members of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, of which Mr. Morones is vice-president, had entered into in 1925—agreements looking toward some guiding control over migration to be exercised through immigration offices at the frontiers. Morones once more stated the position Mexican Labor has always taken, namely: That Mexican Labor considers the free immigration of all persons into Mexico in search of work a natural right, the obligation to uphold which devolves upon the Mexican organized worker as a duty. Mexican workers, accordingly, demand the same right of immigration into other countries. The Mexican organizations seek through these secret offices established under the Secretariat of Industry and Labor, only an assurance that the guarantees and economic standards of the workers in the involved countries are protected—whether North American, Mexican or Asiatic—immigration of workers from the latter region already constituting a very serious problem for Mexico especially in the state of Lower California.

Resolutions expressing full confidence for President Calles and promising entire allegiance until the close of his term in December, 1928, resolutions thanking the retiring officials of the executive committee of the CROM under Ricardo Trevino for the splendid manner in which the work of the past year had been carried out preceded the election of the new committee for the coming year: Jose Lopez Cortez, at present general secretary of the Mexico City municipal government which is dominantly Labor, being named head of the CROM along with Juan B. Fonseca, Martin Torres, Edmundo Sanchez and Jose Radillo.

The CROM's 1926 budget of \$169,945 (Mex) from which an expenditure of \$160,455 (Mex) including help to fraternal organizations in Europe, as for instance the British Miners' strike in 1926, was made, gives an idea of the financial strength of the Mexican labor groups.

The Labor Party Convention

The Mexican Labor Party convention with about 1,500 delegates followed that of the trade unions on August 29 to September 3.

The discussion of the presidential (Continued on page 7)

these workers can count upon our continued support. We shall be helpful in every way possible; we shall support them in their fight for trade unionism and organized labor."

The men and women who have struggled and fought and bled that their organization shall live, will receive this message from the organized labor movement of America with a smile of happiness on their lips. The good fight, indeed, was worthwhile, no matter how hard and distressful at times. We are with the labor movement, and the labor movement is with us. Let us be ready to serve it, just as it is ready to serve and help us.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



The Next Educational Season

(Continued from last week)

OUR EDUCATIONAL METHODS

We regard it as one of the most important functions of our educational department to emphasize to both officers and members the importance of participating in the union's activities and also to assist in interpreting the significance of our union and the labor movement to them as workers and citizens of an industrial democracy.

To do that, we must make the workers who come to our educational activities feel that these are only a part of our broader educational activities in the union's work. But since teaching methods are really influenced by the instructor's knowledge of the group to whom he is presenting his material, our Educational Department makes every effort to acquaint the instructors with the character—social and racial background—and the experience of the group he is teaching, to give him some idea of their social aims, aspirations and hopes for the future. This knowledge makes the teacher virtually a member of the group and puts the class on a more informal footing.

This knowledge of the group also helps the instructor to realize that, although some members of the group lack conventional systematic education, their experience accumulated in trade union activity, where they were held responsible for making decisions, for solving problems and where they had to fight for every inch of ground gained on the economic field, more than makes up for that lack, so that the subject matter he presents must be prepared with a full recognition of their experience as well as their lack of a systematic academic education.

Most of our instructors have found it advisable, consequently, to begin by giving a body of information and then open the subject for discussion, the students using both this information and the information they have gained through experience in discussion.

Our instructors have had to remember, too, that their students will use scarcely any texts, for several reasons. First of all, most of them have little time for reading. They come to our activities after work; in large cities they must spend a great deal of time in traveling. As human beings they have many other interests—friends, the theatre, music, amusements in general, and particularly union affairs. Besides this, the old texts at present available make small appeal to adults, and especially to work students who know life from experience before turning to books. The texts that may some day have a place in workers' schools have not yet been written.

To compensate the students for this deficiency, we have introduced a new form of prepared material in our classes; the outline. The teacher prepares a topical outline for the lesson, in advance, partially developing each phase to be covered, and listing a number of reference books which will further develop it. These outlines are mimeographed and distributed to the students in the class. They have come to serve two purposes—to help the worker follow the subject as it develops, and to serve him afterwards as a reminder of the material.

ACTIVITIES

Our Educational Department conducts three types of activities for our members in various parts of the city where they reside. The attempt is made to make these activities accessible to all and adapted to all interests.

1. WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

The Workers' University consists of classes giving advanced instruction in labor, social sciences, and cultural subjects. Those who attend these classes have had preliminary training elsewhere.

2. EXTENSION DIVISION

During the past years, we have been extending our activities to such of our members as cannot attend regular classes, by offering them courses and individual lectures at local meetings, in local offices and wherever we could find them in organized groups. We are planning to spend a great deal of effort developing these so-called extension activities, all the while, of course, continuing our regular classes, since we find that we can reach many more workers through them, and help these workers to become better informed and more active unionists.

(a) Courses for groups of members are given in offices of local unions, where members meet for organization purposes.

(b) Lectures and talks are given at business meetings of local unions. Members attend these meetings, and listen to the lectures before beginning the business of the evening.

Both the courses and lectures are given in the language best understood by the group—English, Yiddish, Russian, or Italian.

(c) The Educational Department also arranges social activities. Weekly musical and social gatherings for members and their families are held in different sections of the city. Group singing is featured. In addition, prominent speakers address the gatherings on labor or social problems. The Department also arranges excursions, hikes and visits to museums for members of the Union and their friends.

3. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The Educational Department assists in every possible way, our members who wish to study the English language. Classes

are either arranged for them in the public schools where teachers are assigned by the Board of Education, or smaller groups outside the schools are assisted in engaging competent teachers. We believe that a knowledge of the language of the country in which workers make their home, is most essential to their cultural as well as to their economic advancement.

4. UNION PRIMER

Our Educational Department is preparing a primer to acquaint our members with the increasingly complex and varied activities of our International Union and with their rights and duties as members of it.

5. UNITY HOUSE LECTURES

The Department arranges for lectures and discussions on economics, sociology, psychology, literature, art, drama and the affairs of the day at our summer home, Unity House.

6. EDUCATION DURING STRIKES

During the strikes conducted by our International Union, our Educational Department cooperates with the speakers' and entertainment committees in providing recreational and educational activities for the strikers. These include concerts, lectures, exhibitions of moving pictures. An attempt is made to call the attention of the strikers to the opportunities offered by our Educational Department.

During our last strike, the department arranged entertainments for the wives and children of the strikers near their homes. At these meetings, women speakers explained the significance of the strike to them, and inspired them to support their husbands in their struggles for a better life.

OUT OF TOWN ACTIVITIES

Our Educational Department conducts activities for our members in other cities. In Boston and Philadelphia special arrangements are made with the local labor college for our members.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

The Educational Department makes special arrangements by which tickets for theatres and concerts are sold to members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at reduced prices.

BOOKS

The Educational Department assists our members in selecting books which they can buy at minimum prices.

ADMISSION

Admission is free to members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Other workers are admitted at the request of their unions.

REGISTRATION

Students are expected to register in advance either in person at the Educational Department or by mail. Students may register later in the year for courses and lectures organized after the season begins.

MANAGEMENT

The Educational Committee of the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union plans our educational activities. The work is administered by the Educational Department which calls upon Educational Committees of local unions for advice and cooperation.

STUDENTS' COUNCILS

Each class elects two members to serve on a Students' Council. This Council helps the Educational Department to keep in touch with classes, and selects three of its number to sit with the Executive Committee of the Faculty. They express the wishes and sentiments of their fellow students in the choice of subjects, and the arrangement of the program, etc. In this way, they enable us to discover and satisfy the educational needs of our members.

GENERAL TIME SCHEDULE

Our school year at the Workers' University consists of about twenty-four weeks, November 12th to April 16th.

The activities of the Extension Division are continued over a longer period.

Classes meet evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

Students can obtain a time schedule at the office of the Educational Department.

MUSCO'S ITALIAN FOLK THEATRE

Broad, pantomimic farce in its best expression is revealed by the latest importation in our New York theatre, Angelo Musco's Sicilian folk troupe now holding forth in a season of repertoire at the Manhattan Opera House. Senor Musco's plays concern themselves with themes and situations dear to the hearts of people who still know how to laugh. Judging from the reception Musco received from his

American audience, many were present who haven't forgotten how.

This reviewer, to whom Sicilian is an alien tongue, had no difficulty following the development of "The Matchmaker", a comedy by Capuana. The situations, of course, were obvious, but what lent clarity and intelligibility to the performance was the fluent pantomime, not only of the principal, but of the entire supporting cast.

The acting was absolutely naturalistic and one had the feeling that he was listening in on a provincial comedy that was being lived by the actors.

Mexican Labor In Two Conventions

(Continued from page 5)
succession in Mexico and the coming presidential elections in 1928 was the outstanding event of this congress, and to state that public opinion throughout Mexico anxiously awaited the nomination of Labor's candidate partly because of the political unrest prevailing because of the presidential succession and partly because of the enormous importance of the decision of Mexican Labor, is not overestimating the matter.

The congress, through the acknowledged head of the Mexican Labor movement, Ricardo Trevino, expressed regret that the discussion of presidential succession had started so early in the country and, in Labor's opinion, resulted only in exciting the Mexican population without any practical results.

Mexican Labor's position toward the presidential succession in Mexico was stated as follows: In accordance with its revolutionary traditions, it is in principle against re-election, but

considering the fact that Mexico lacks strong personalities and that persons who possess completely the confidence of Labor are unable because of constitutional restrictions to be candidates at this time, Labor considers General Alvaro Obregon, the former president of Mexico, as the only person fitted to preserve peace and to guarantee the well-being of the laboring masses.

The congress, accepting this point of view, unanimously endorsed General Alvaro Obregon as Labor's candidate for the coming presidential term 1928-1932. Full power was also accorded the executive committee to act according to the necessities and vicissitudes of the coming election and presidential period, to the end that the fullest guarantees in matters concerning Labor may be secured and maintained.

The new executive committee elected by the Party is headed by Eduardo Moneda, new chief of the government printing shops.

Wanted: More Courage

(Continued from Page 2)

and will win glorious victories in 1928 if only they will "stop shooting at the moon and secure power where it will really count—in the Senate and House of Representatives". We have our doubts. The vague uncoordinated activities in the old party primaries of discontented groups that call themselves progressives, will prevail against the well organized ranks of the business interests in both parties just about the same time that the guerilla warfare of the old days of Indian fights will prevail against a modern army. Progressives elected on Manly's plan have no real unifying principle to hold them together. Nominally they belong to the old parties and cannot wholly escape the effects of their allegiance. They are subject to all the subtle pressures of Washington life. They are curbed and hemmed in by Presidential and judicial power. Even if nominal progressives should be as generally elected in 1928 as Mr. Manly hopes their record would be as futile as was the progressive record of the Congress of 1922 in which believers in non-partisan political action took such an extravagant delight. Anyone who thinks that progressives of any color can elect a President in 1928 is, of course, shooting at the moon. But to organize a party of farmers and workers on some definite issues and with some definite philosophy is not shooting at the moon. It is the only thing which in the long run will get us anywhere.

That is what gives such significance to Socialist Party activities. It is really working for a genuine labor party and because it is working for a labor party local campaigns such as that which has not begun in New York City take on something of a national significance. As big vote for Jacob

Panken, the only Socialist judge in America, will hearten men everywhere who not only look for a labor party but who realize, especially after the dreadful summer which has seen the legal murder of Sacco and Vanzetti, that the judicial no less than the legislative branch is the concern of a labor party. Judge Panken's reelection will mean the continuance of a judicial record that is a national asset to his party.

Everybody who ever has or hopes to ride on, over or under New York's streets as resident or visitor—and that means most Americans—is interested in some decent solution of its transit problem. Hence the importance of the Untermyer report. On first reading, except in one important particular, it outlines about as good a plan for the solution of our transit problem as can be worked out in a situation where the city is tied not only by outrageously one sided contracts but by all sorts of state laws and court rulings. On the use of the recapture powers by the city, the maintenance of the five cent fare, and the creation of a special municipal operating company the Untermyer plan follows principles advocated by the Socialists in the campaign of 1925. But most emphatically they never proposed to turn the municipal operating to a directorate the majority of whom are to be nominated by the big and little Babbitts of the realty boards, Chambers of Commerce and merchants' associations of Greater New York. On the contrary, they proposed minority representation of the men who invest their lives in running the subways. This is a subject on which Mr. Untermyer's silence fairly shouts for attention. Yet in Philadelphia the Mitten Plan, whatever its faults, has familiarized the public with the notion of representation of the workers on the directorate.

Is Fine Literature Doomed?

(Extract From An Article on Literature by Bertrand Russell)

My own belief is that great literature will never recover the importance which it possessed in the past. I do not think that it is compatible with the habits of mind of an industrial civilization. For my part I look rather to such things as the cinema for the great art of the future. The possibilities of the cinema are boundless, both for great epic and for the drama of history. Hitherto it has hardly been used, at all for any artistic purposes, but that is because it has appeared as a competitor to the theatre, which has retained in its service such dramatic talent as our age produced. The art of the cinema ought to be quite different from the drama, and it is an unfortunate accident that the two should have been so much associated.

It may seem an absurd thing to say but I believe that in a mechanical age no art can achieve wide popularity unless the public is impressed by the technical and mechanical skill required for the production. In the cinema this kind of skill can contribute to the excellence of the result, whereas in the theatre gorgeous scenery, clever lighting and so on only distract from the true artistic interest. Moreover the cinema is far more suited than the drama to impersonal themes, and the whole tendency of a machine age is to diminish the importance attached to personality and to increase the popular interest in collective movements. In an aristocratic society, kings and nobles were allowed to fall romantically in love, to have broken hearts,

and to demand holocausts to satisfy their Byronic despair; but a man who has to go to the factory or the office every morning has no leisure for such grandiose things. Everything that is important in his life is collective in its origin.

For the moment, women are less affected by these considerations than men, because they are less completely industrialized. The result is, as Mr. Wells has pointed out, that women are always looking vainly for the romantic lover and demanding the type of fiction which supplies what their real world lacks. And this is especially true in America, where consequently women appear as though they were more cultured and artistic than men, but this culture is in effect a vain clinging to the past. Women want the luxury which is supplied by their men's industry, and yet they resent the mentality with which that industry is necessarily connected. In old days a noble who received his rents or a king who received his tributes could lavish luxuries upon his ladies without having to be busy, and could therefore be a splendid lover as well as a good paymaster. Nowadays the two are separated. Only artists and others whose emotions are disinterested remain capable of being splendid lovers, and alas for the ladies, they are almost always poor. For this reason there is a sort of unreality about the art supported by rich idle women. It is at bottom an attempt to persuade themselves that their life is less empty and silly than in their hearts they know that it is.

What To Read

VANGUARD BOOKS

Negro Labor in the United States.
By Charles H. Wesley.

Uncle Tom now has not even a cabin. He rents the cheapest lodging he can find. He is a factory number. He is a cog in the machinery of modern industrialism. How the black worker has fared under American capitalism—from slavery days to the present—is vividly told, for the first time in this Vanguard volume.

Aggressive Action for Civil Rights.
By Clement Wood, and the legal staff of the Civil Liberties Union.

Lately there have been many aggressive contests to insure freedom of speech, press and assemblage, and to maintain the right to strike and boycott. In these battles the Civil Liberties Union, with its able and militant counsel, has generally been in the thickest of the fighting. The remarkable experience, upon which this book is based, is therefore of utmost value to every American citizen, and especially to every labor unionist.

Out of the Past.
By R. W. Postgate.

Revolutionists are made of stern stuff. They lead desperate lives. When they win, historians and biographers record, and sometimes praise, their heroic deeds. But here is a book that portrays the thrilling attempts of revolutionary leaders who failed and paid the penalty. Read this dramatic story of the inspiring efforts of several brave men who dared to fight for the people.

What's So and What Isn't.
By John M. Work.

For the purpose of expounding Socialism in a simple and convincing manner, especially to those whose education has been somewhat limited, there is probably no better book than "What's So and What Isn't". Every possible question about Socialism and

its program is considered and answered. The book is the result of a lifetime of experience on the part of the author as a successful Socialist propagandist. This is a new and revised edition, timely and up-to-date.

New Tactics in Social Conflict.
Symposium, Edited by Harry W. Laidler and Norman Thomas.

The value of this book lies in its controversial quality as well as in the timeliness of the problems it presents. Here you have recognized students of social questions frankly discussing such modern developments as labor banks, company unions and aggressive American imperialism. Says Upton Sinclair: "It is the most interesting and useful book on present day problems that I have come on for a long time."

The Profits of Religion.
By Upton Sinclair.

In this amazing book, Upton Sinclair mercilessly exposes all those who exploit religion for selfish ends. Powerful churches, prominent evangelists, fly-by-night sects—none are spared by Sinclair. His evidence is sweeping; his attack is devastating. This is a fearless book for fearless people.

On The Steppes.
By James N. Rosenberg.
(Alfred A. Knopf, \$2.50).

This is an interesting Russian diary with a brief foreword by Louis Marshall. It is a day-to-day record of the author's travels in Soviet Russia in the Spring of 1926, and gives an exceptionally vivid impression of present-day conditions, especially in the agricultural regions. The picture is drawn with the simplest, least pretentious strokes, and it consists entirely of what the author saw and heard.

It records the life not only of the few in Russia but of the Russian people.

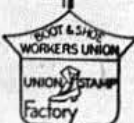
We are sure our members will be interested to read this book.

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COLLIS LOVELL
General President
CHARLES L. BAINE
General Secretary-Treasurer



The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

Respond To "Dues Week" Call!

As the fall season is about to wind up, and the membership is faced with weeks of unemployment, when the payment of dues is one of the first things that is likely to be neglected, Manager Dubinsky took the matter up with the Executive Board, with the result that this week, beginning Saturday, October 22, was declared to be "Dues Week." A special letter was sent to the members in which the object of the "Dues Week" is explained. The letter is also practically a bill. For in a blank space, provided for that purpose, each member was notified how many weeks of dues he owed. The drive for dues will be concluded at the special meeting, next Monday, October 31.

The response to the call in the first three days of the drive exceeded the expectation of the officers. It must be remembered that the dress men have been in a slump for some time. The only dress houses that had any work were the large shops, and these began laying off their men about two weeks ago. In addition to this, work in the cloak trade has been on the decline for some weeks. In spite of this condition, however, the cutters responded in the traditional way of Local 10, just as they responded to all previous calls, when it was a matter of expressing loyalty. In this case, too, in spite of the hardships to which they had been subjected with regard to employment, they answered the call like true union men. The letter follows in full:

Dear Sir and Brother:

Within the last two years, our Union has faced a very critical period. Our membership suffered considerably, both from the unwarranted strike and the unprecedented slack season that followed it. It required considerable effort and sacrifice on the part of the members to maintain themselves and their families, and still keep in good standing with the Union. With their best efforts, however, they were unable to meet their obligations as fully as they desired and as they were accustomed to in previous years.

This season, which cannot boast of much work, is now winding up. The dull season is approaching and it will be a period in which you will find it impossible to pay your dues. The amount of your present indebtedness plus the accumulation of dues during the slack season, will climb up so high that when the season begins again, you will find yourself "owing a young fortune."

Every loyal member realizes that in order to maintain union standards and improve conditions for the coming season, funds must be raised immediately. In addition, elections are ahead of us in about two months. The Executive Board, therefore, has decided to call the attention of the members to their arrearages, and is calling upon them to place themselves in good standing, in order to raise funds and to enable the membership to participate in the coming elections.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS DECLARED A "DUES WEEK" IN LOCAL 10, BEGINNING LAST SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22—ENDING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29.

BECAUSE NOW AND NOT DURING THE SLACK PERIOD IS THE TIME TO PLACE YOURSELF IN GOOD STANDING.

At present you owe for weeks dues. Our records show that in the past you have responded to all the

calls of Local 10, and have met your obligations whenever called upon, in spite of the many hardships you were confronted with.

If, for one reason or another, you cannot place yourself in good standing and pay up to date—PAY FOR THREE MONTHS! PAY FOR TWO MONTHS! PAY FOR ONE MONTH! BUT MAKE SURE TO COME TO THE OFFICE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE "DUES WEEK" AND MAKE PAYMENT ON YOUR DUES IN ORDER TO GET THE SPECIAL "DUES WEEK" STAMP IN YOUR BOOK, especially arranged for this purpose. This will indicate that you have responded once more to the call of our Union.

We are confident that you will at this time display Local 10's spirit of unionism. This stamp will be a sign of loyalty and will show your willingness to cooperate with the officers of Local 10.

The slogan adopted for the "DUES WEEK," WHICH WILL BEGIN ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd AND WILL END ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, IS "EVERY MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING—OR AT LEAST A PAYMENT" and must be made a success.

Fraternalty yours,
Executive Board, Local 10.
DAVID DUBINSKY,
Manager.

P. S.—As we are expecting all members to respond to this call, arrangements have been made to accommodate the membership during "DUES WEEK" and the office will be open every night until 8 o'clock and on Friday until 6 o'clock. An extra staff of clerks has been installed for this purpose.

Dues could also be paid at the next General Member Meeting, Monday, October 31, when your book will be stamped, signifying your quarterly attendance.

Can You Answer "Yes" To the Following Questions?

Are you in good standing.

Have you received the special letter of the Executive Board concerning your dues?

Have you responded to the call?

Thousands of members responded to the call and placed themselves in good standing, or made a payment during "DUES WEEK."

ARE YOU AMONG THEM?

ARE YOU CARRYING THE SPECIAL "DUES WEEK" STAMP IN YOUR BOOK?

Saturday and Monday, October 29 and 31 are the last two days of this campaign and the last two days in which to receive the "DUES WEEK" honor stamp in your book.

This is your opportunity to be classified amongst the loyal members who have responded to this call. DO NOT NEGLECT IT.

William Kuzinsky No. 6084A was the first to respond to this call and to receive the "Honor Stamp."

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST—BE SURE NOT TO BE THE LAST!

Cutters Aid In Panken Campaign

In response to the appeal of the Executive Board, over fifty officers, executive board and active members reported last Sunday at the special headquarters from which the campaign to re-elect Jacob Panken as Justice of the Municipal Court is carried on, to help in canvassing the voters living in the Second Municipal district.

This aid given by our men to the Socialist Judge is a sincere feeling inspired by gratitude for the man who gave up most of his life to the workers' movement. It was at a gathering of one thousand members of Local 10, during the last general strike, that Judge Panken was endorsed for Governor on the Socialist Party ticket. This same feeling is back of the efforts now being made by Local 10 to help in his re-election. Among those who were present last Sunday, and who went out to canvass were: Maurice W. Jacobs, Louis Pankin, David Dubinsky, Meyer Friedman, Morris Feller, Nathan Saperstein, Samuel Massover, Jack Kops, Philip Wechsler, Morris Levine, Max L. Posner, Max Haber, Meyer Liebowitz, Fred Ratner, Elias Bass, Jacob Fleischer, Jacob White and Philip Amrow.

Election day is but a matter of

few days off. Next Sunday is the only free day left for a further canvass of the voters. A good deal more is required to be done. Manager Dubinsky and the Executive Board are appealing for volunteers in this campaign. Members of Local 10, residing on the East Side, or such of the members who at present live elsewhere but who may have resided on the East Side at one time, and are familiar with the citizens residing in the district in which Judge Panken is running should report next Sunday, October 30, at 107 Second Avenue in connection with campaign work. They will meet there the officers and Executive Board members of Local 10 with whom they will work.

Step By Step

"Step by step the longest march
Can be won; can be won.
Single stones will form an arch
One by one, one by one."

"And by union, what we will
Can be all accomplished still.
Drops of water turn a mill,
Single none, singly none."

Attention, Members of Local 10!

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, October 31, 1927

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE 7:30 P. M.

PURPOSE: Special Recommendations of the Executive Board.

- DONATION TO PANKEN CAMPAIGN.
- QUESTION OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.
- QUESTION OF VOTING ON CONVENTION CITY.
- SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION FOR NOVEMBER MEETING.

JUDGE JACOB PANKEN, CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION FOR JUSTICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT, WILL DELIVER AN ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10.

BROTHER ISIDORE NAGLER, WHO REPRESENTED THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION AT THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR IN LOS ANGELES, CAL., WILL RENDER A REPORT AND GIVE HIS IMPRESSIONS.

Cutters, Help Reelect Justice Panken to the Bench!